

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803471**

Robinson R-22

28 July 1988

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198803471 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Miranda Downs (53 nm NE of Normanton), QLD
Date: 28 July 1988 **Time:** 1030
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Robinson R-22
Registration: VH-HAP
Serial Number: N/K
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Miranda Downs Qld
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Miranda Downs Qld

Approved for Release: 15 February 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that he was mustering in a creek bed when one of the cattle ran at the helicopter. As he manoeuvred to avoid the beast, the tail rotor contacted a tree, destroying the tail rotor and associated gearbox. The aircraft was landed without further damage. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot flew an evasive manoeuvre to avoid a beast running at the helicopter.
2. The pilot misjudged the horizontal clearance behind the helicopter.
3. Operational hazard - mustering operations at low altitude in confined areas.